

K-587

Circa 1880-1890

Swan Meadow

Near Locust Grove

Private

This large, frame, vernacular Victorian Gothic Revival house is almost a twin of one located within sight and less than one-half mile to the northeast, the house at Ivingo. Although there are some differences, both probably were built by members of the Merritt family within a few years of each other. This one appears slightly later. It is not shown on the 1877 atlas of Kent County map of the second election district. A house is shown at Ivingo, though the designation may have been for only the rear wing, which is older. The rear wing at Swan Meadow (a recent name) is contemporary with the front, main section. Like its neighbor, this is the house of a prosperous farming family, built in what had become a standard form and style for large farmhouses by the last quarter of the nineteenth century. It had the usual central gable flanked by a pair of roof dormers; ornate, large main entry; and two-storey bay windows at one end, the last less common. Such bays were just beginning to appear in rural Kent County, "breaking out of the box" for the first time in these still basically box-like houses. Also unusual are the walk-out windows of the main facade's first storey. What might have made possible both of these houses is heightened prosperity due to the success of Kent County peach crops during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Much of this section of the county was covered with peach orchards, though pear trees were also planted in quantity. The nation may have had its "gilded age," but in Kent County these elaborate houses were one indicator of the prosperity and "conspicuous consumption" of the times.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. K-587

Magi No. 1505875604

DOE   yes   no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Swan Meadow

## 2. Location

South side Rt. 213, .8 mile west of Rt. 444, southwest  
street & number of Locust Grove    not for publicationcity, town Locust Grove    vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Kent

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<u>  </u> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture
<u>  </u> building(s)	<u>  </u> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>  </u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial
	<u>  </u> not applicable	<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military
			<u>  </u> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Amelia M. Wewer and Patricia Sendin

street &amp; number Box 38 telephone no.: 348-0906

city, town Kennedyville state and zip code Maryland 21645

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Court House liber EHP 57

street &amp; number Cross Street folio 71

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys NONE

title

date    federal    state    county    local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. K-587

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The house at Swan Meadow, on the southeast side of Route 213 about a mile from Locust Grove, is a large, two-part, frame building built in a vernacular Victorian Gothic Revival style. Its main section is 2-1/2 stories tall and five bays wide. The center bay is emphasized by a central gable with large spire-type finial, as well as on the first story by a large, elaborate main entry. A five-bay main-facade porch has especially notable brackets and spandrels. On the east end is a two-story three-part bay-window, while centered on the other end are paired windows on the first two stories and a large single window on the third level. There is a lower, two-story perpendicular rear wing that is four bays deep and two wide, with a porch spanning its west side. It is set in from the east of the main section about two feet. The main-section plan is central hall with one room on each side. Close to the house there are now numerous enclosures that are part of a dog breeding and boarding business.

(Continued)

## 8. Significance

Survey No. K-587

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Circa 1880

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This large, frame, vernacular Victorian Gothic Revival house is almost a twin to one located within sight and less than one-half mile to the northeast, the house at Ivingo. Although there are some differences, both probably were built by members of the Merritt family within a few years of each other. This one appears slightly later. It is not shown on the 1877 atlas of Kent County map of the second election district. A house is shown at Ivingo, though the designation may have been for only the rear section, which is older. The rear wing at Swan Meadow (a recent name) is contemporary with the front, main section. Like its neighbor, this is the house of a prosperous farming family, built in what had almost become a standard form and style for large farmhouses by the last quarter of the nineteenth century. It has the usual central gable flanked by a pair of roof dormers; ornate, large main entry; and two-story bay windows at one end, the last less common. Such bays were just beginning to appear in rural Kent County, "breaking out of the box" for the first time in these still basically box-like houses. What might have made possible both of these houses is unaccustomed prosperity due to the success of Kent County peach crops during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Much of this section of the county was covered with peach orchards, though pear trees were also planted in quantity. The nation may have had its "gilded age," but in Kent County these elaborate houses were one indicator of the prosperity and "conspicuous consumption" of the times.



The exterior walls of both sections are covered with lapped, horizontal weatherboard with 5 to 5-1/2" exposure. There are plain double cornerboards.

The foundation is built with dark-red bricks that have also been painted dark-red at one time. The main section is built over a crawl space; a cellar is beneath the wing.

A brick chimney is located on each side of the central hall, within the room each side and exits through the ridge of the main section. They both have a three-course corbelled cap (out and in) and a one-course band below. There are two wing chimneys, both through the ridge. One is at the rear wall of the dining room (the wing room closer to the main section), and the other is a chimney for the kitchen, the rear wing room. They are built of brick that has been parged, including the caps.

The roofs are covered with wood shingles, severely weathered in the case of the wing. Part of the square base of a spire-type finial is applied to the central gable's cornice face at the center. Below the cornice level is a compoundly-turned drop, and the remainder, both turned and pointed, extends upward above the central gable roof. Originally there was a similar spire at each gable end of the main section roof. The west one is in place, but the east one was measured on the ground to be 71-1/2" long. The cornice is boxed and overhangs the walls at both sides and ends by about 14". There are prominent returns of about 20-24". The crown molding is a large cyma recta with fillets, and the bed is compound.

The dormers are on the front facade only, one on each side of the central gable and positioned over the outer of the five bays below. There is a double-hung window in each with 2-over-2 lights; the upper sash is pointed. The dormer roofs are steep and gabled and covered with wood shingles. They overhang broadly, about 10" at gable end and 8" at eaves. The eaves are closed along the undersides of the rafters, giving a more "gothic" appearance. The cheeks are of horizontal, lapped weatherboard. The wood sills are bold. The wide, plain pilasters have pierced, sawn brackets from their upper, outer edges to the edge of the eaves at the sides. The fascia crown molding is a cyma reversa, and there is no bed molding, though there is a wide, plain split-face frieze divided by a large double bead which with the top frieze board gives a corbelled effect.

In the center of the central gable there is a pair of double-hung windows with 1-over-1 lights that together are pointed, repeating the theme of the gable itself and the type of window used in the nearby dormers. Separating the paired windows is a wide board. The trim for these windows is plain and bolt with with the compound lintel trim as used elsewhere on the main section (except for the dormers). A cyma reversa is applied on the upper section of plain trim, and there is a plain, bold cap above. Weatherboard is applied to the face of the central gable, without a break from that of the main wall below. There are no cornice returns that extend into the central gable to break its upward thrust.

(continued)

The main entry is in the central bay of the main section's north, approach facade. The doors are tall and double and now stripped of finish. They are about 4'-4" wide x 7'-5" tall. Each door has five panels that are recessed and slightly raised, with bold, compound belection molding (2-1/2" wide) applied. A single panel is horizontal between the upper and lower vertical pairs. Cast hardware is in place. On the interior side of the door the panels have central triple reeding flanked by fillets. The stiles and rails at the panels are all chamfered with stopped-chamfers. There is a four-light transom with center lights larger and the same color, bright blue. The outer lights are red. There is a bold transom bar that includes a large cyma reversa. Above the transom is a plain frieze. The head trim, at the porch ceiling, is as used elsewhere, a cyma reversa and board cap. Pilaster trim is 4-1/4" wide and plain. As at Ivingo (K-565), the head trim extends slightly beyond the jamb trim, about 3/4" in this case. There are two-light (1-over-1) sidelights on each side of the doors, with vivid colored glass (yellow and red), though the east lower sidelight now has clear glass. Beneath the lights there is one panel with the same type of molding as used on the door panels except that it is recessed here. The architrave sill is bold.

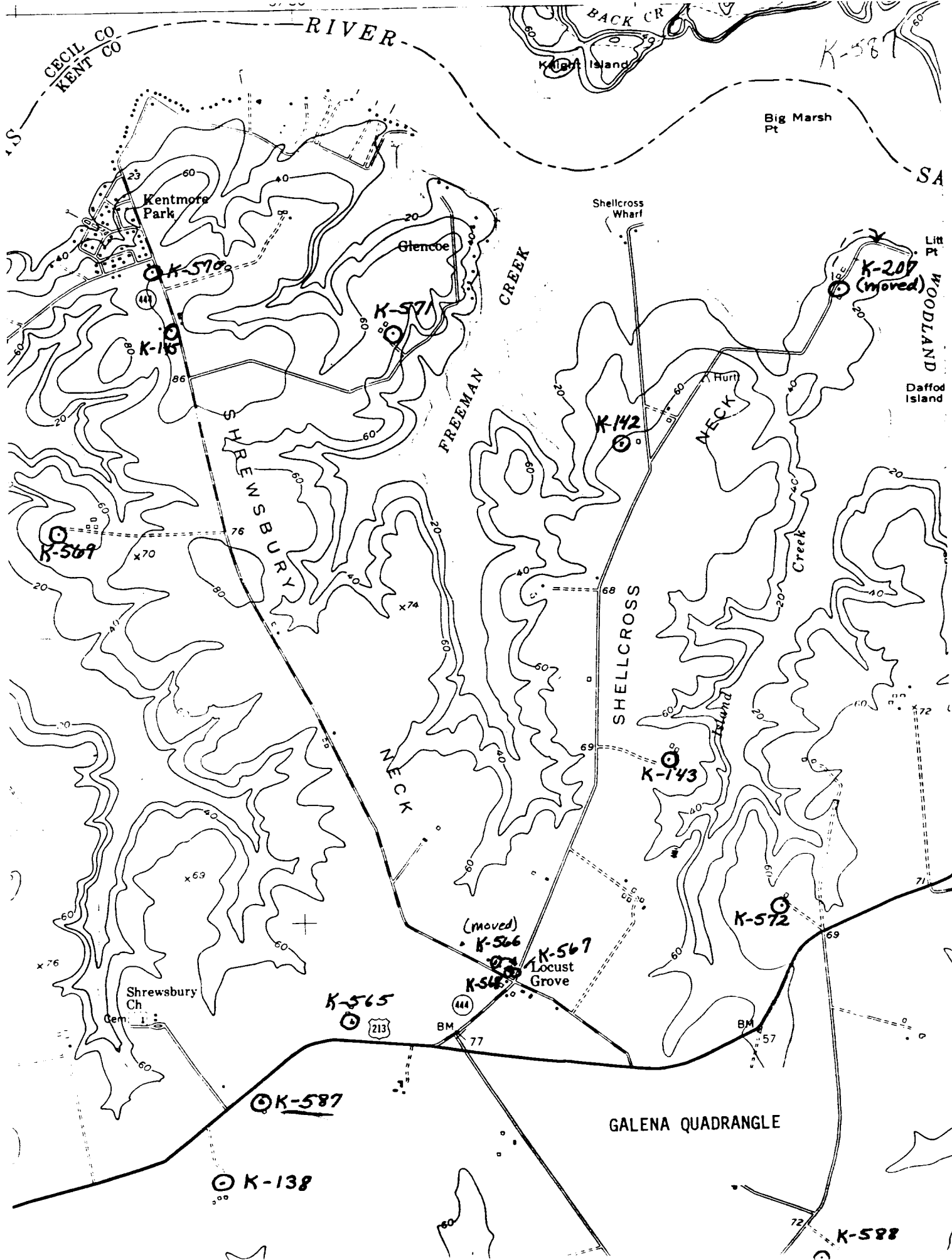
Windows of the first-storey facade of the main section are double-hung, tall, and narrow. Their 2-over-2 lights are consequently large. The first-storey windows are taller than those of the second storey. Trim is 3-3/4" on the jambs, but the lintel trim is the same as at the main entry: a bold cyma reversa on a plain head frieze surmounted by a bold, protruding, plain board cap. The sills are double, with the lower edge of the lower one only 3-3/4" from the porch floor. With the lower pair of lights in the lower sash is a pair of panels below the glass. The panels are recessed and slightly raised. In the center is a large fillet flanked by triple reeding and narrow outer fillets, the same detail that is used on the inside of the main entry door. These tall windows, seen occasionally in the upper county (including at nearby Ivingo, K-565) but not often, were the successors to jib doors used with windows. These later windows may have been thought to be more weather-tight. Not only could the summer breezes pass easily into the house, but one could step outside from either of the first storey rooms directly onto the porch. The overall architrave of these unusual windows measures 10'-3-1/2" high x 3-4-1/8" wide. Directly above the main entry, on the second storey, there is a pair of windows, each with very narrow 1-over-1 double-hung sash; there is a broad fascia between. There is thus a three-level focus on the central bay: main entry, double windows on the second storey, and double pointed windows on the third level.

The two-storey bay window on the east end is built in the same manner as the bay at K-565 nearby. There is a pent roof between each storey's bay, with a boxed cornice that includes a crown of a large cyma with fillets and what appears to be a large double bead as a bed molding. A 2-over-2 window is in the center of the three-sided bay, with 1-over-1 window in each side. There is plain wide trim to the corners, where there is a corner bead, or bowtell, with a diameter of about 1-1/2". There is a recessed panel beneath each window. There is a plain band recessed beneath the panels whose lower edge aligns with the lowest edge of the nearby weatherboard.

(continued)

The main stair in the central hall is dogleg and continuous to the third storey. It is open-string, with two turned balusters with octagonal bases per pine tread. The newel is bold. It has a square base with chamfered corners. There are turned and octagonal sections, but the main shaft is tapered and octagonal. There is a compound cap with button. There are no intermediates. The balustrade is continuous to the third storey termination at a wall. At the landing between first and second storey there is door above two steps that leads to the wing. The other access to the wing on the second storey from the main section is through the east bedroom. The door at the landing has one large light with etched glass in a quatrefoil and square pattern over two vertical panels.







K-587

Swan Meadow

Rt. 213, near Locust Grove

M. Q. Fallaw - 5/14/85

View to southeast

K587-26A



K-587

Swan Meadow

Rt. 213, near Locust Grove

M. Q. Fallaw - 5/14/85

View to northwest

K587-19A